

affairs on Guam. We are very proud of this transplanted Guamanian and congratulate him on this prestigious award as well as his lifetime of service to Guam.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3675) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I greatly regret the \$110 million cut in Amtrak capital funding for fiscal year 1997, from the \$230 million level for the current fiscal year.

It is clear that this Congress and this administration want Amtrak to be free of operating assistance by fiscal year 2002.

The budget resolution passed this year for fiscal year 1997 and the one passed last year put Amtrak on a glide path of operating support declining to zero. Our Transportation and Infrastructure Committee brought a bill to the House to reauthorize Amtrak last year, which passed by a vote of 406 to 4. This legislation also constructs a gradual phaseout of Amtrak's operating support by 2002. Amtrak's own business plan also eliminates the need for Federal support by 2002. In other words, with the funding plan in our budget resolution and passage of reform legislation, we have made a pact with Amtrak. We have told them to do what no other national passenger railroad in the world has been able to do: Be free of operating support. This is a major accomplishment and one that Congress should encourage. In exchange, we offered a structured funding phaseout and passage of cost saving legislation.

The fact is that from 1995 to 1997, Amtrak's funding levels are \$1.2 billion less than what they requested and what they said was necessary for operating self-sufficiency. We cannot expect them to continue to operate a national system with such deep cuts.

Instead, with this funding level for Amtrak, Congress has moved away from the blueprint envisioned in the budget resolution. Without adequate capital funds during this critical transition period, Amtrak cannot make the essential investments necessary to survive once Congress has provided it with its last dollar of operating support. Also, while the House did pass reauthorization legislation, the Senate has failed to do so. Therefore, Amtrak does not benefit yet from any of the cost savings contained in that bill.

It is clear, and we all agree, that Amtrak should be free of operating support and should have less dependence on Congress for its funding. However, without adequate capital funds now, Amtrak will forever be dependent on Congress to meet its operating deficits.

A railroad is a capital intensive enterprise. It's fair to say that Congress has kept Amtrak on a Slim-Fast capital investment diet for the better part of its 25-year existence. As a result, Amtrak has not been able to modernize its locomotive fleet by purchasing more reli-

able and fuel-efficient engines. Their maintenance shops date, in many cases, to the steam era and need to be upgraded. The electric wires that are used on the Northeast corridor are the same ones the Pennsylvania Railroad first strung in 1993. If we don't give Amtrak the ability to reinvest now, we will never get them to a legitimate point of self-sufficiency.

This is a pivotal time for a national passenger rail policy. It's like the old saying: "Pay me now or really pay me later." Should Amtrak become insolvent, the liability to the Federal Government is going to be a far greater cost to the taxpayers than giving Amtrak the funds needed to successfully transition to self-sufficiency.

Literally, it will cost more money to put Amtrak out of business than to keep it in business.

REGARDING THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 1996

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to House Resolution 461, a measure to revoke most-favored-nation [MFN] trade status for the People's Republic of China.

Mr. Speaker, I could not more strongly agree with the objectives of the sponsors of this resolution, but I disagree with the means they propose to achieve them. The vital United States interests at stake in our relationship with China are clear: to curb weapons proliferation, increase respect for human rights, protect our allies on Taiwan, promote fair trade practices, advance political reform, and reduce the United States trade deficit. However, revoking MFN, effectively terminating our economic relationship with China, advances none of these objectives and, in fact, seriously damages United States economic and security interests.

If the United States were to revoke MFN, the average tariff on Chinese imports would increase from 5 to 40 percent. The Chinese, of course, would respond in kind by erecting prohibitive tariffs on United States goods. The result would be not only a screeching, grinding halt to United States-China trade but also a deep freeze in Sino-American relations.

The choice facing the House today is whether to pursue United States interests in China through a policy of engagement or a policy of isolation. Our recent experience with Chinese behavior during a period of isolation from the world community should be instructive. Before the economic and diplomatic opening of the late 1970's, most of the current problems in the Sino-United States relationship were worse than they are today: the regime was more abusive of human rights, even less tolerant of dissent, more aggressive toward Taiwan and other neighbors, and more determined to oppose United States interests at every opportunity. The spotlight of international engagement has advanced, albeit haltingly, United States interests in China.

What are the consequences of revoking MFN? Without question, revoking MFN would damage the Chinese economy, but what effect would it have on our own economy? With regard to agriculture, I can tell you that this resolution of disapproval is one of the most im-

portant pieces of farm legislation that Congress will consider this year.

We must promote American agriculture through increasing world food demand and exports. China represents a perfect example of a growing market hungry for quality American food products. As the Chinese diet continues to improve they will demand high-value agricultural products like meats, fruits, and vegetables—commodities American producers are eager to export.

United States agricultural exports to China reached record levels again last year with nearly \$2.6 billion in total sales. The USDA projects 1996 exports to reach \$2.9 billion. Included in the 1995 export total is over \$500 million in wheat, a 200-percent increase over 1994. Agriculture exports not only benefit farmers but also support the schools, hospitals, and small businesses that are the backbone of rural communities in North Dakota and across the country.

The Congressional Research Service has estimated that without MFN and the ability to export wheat to China, wheat prices will fall by 23 cents per bushel by 1998. That price drop translates into a \$10,000 hit to the average North Dakota wheat farm. Once that market is lost American producers may never have the opportunity to reclaim it as other suppliers would certainly move in to fill the void. Why would we now want to shut off our farmers from the world's largest market? Disapproving MFN strikes at the heart of rural America and the American farmer.

Extending MFN to China serves the economic and security interests of the United States. I urge my colleagues to oppose the resolution of disapproval.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY ON GUAM

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 1996

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, with honor and appreciation, I commend the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina in Guam on their 50th anniversary of dedicated and loving service to the people of Guam and the Northern Marianas. The renown of the Sisters of Mercy reaches beyond their reputation as teachers and school administrators on Guam, Saipan, and Rota. Today, their esteemed standing in their Mariana Islands can also be attributed to the quality of performance exemplified in their pastoral, family, youth, and health-care ministries.

The Catholic school system envisioned by His Excellency, the late Apollinaris W. Baumgartner, bishop of Guam, has flourished strikingly since its establishment in the years following World War II, and in these efforts to better the educational upbringing of Guam's children, the Sisters of Mercy have played a prominent role. Since the establishment of the Academy of Our Lady in 1994 by Sister Mary Inez, R.S.M.—my aunt Mary Essie Underwood—the list of Mercy-run schools has expanded to include Bishop Baumgartner Memorial School, in Santa Barbara School, St.

Anthony School, Mt. Carmel School in Saipan, San Francisco de Borja School in Rota, Infant of Prague Nursery, and Mercy Heights Nursery. The depth of the commitment of the Sisters of Mercy can hardly be represented by an inventory of accomplishments; rather, it is in their ceaseless dedication to the promotion of Christian values which characterizes their legacy in our fortunate islands.

I happily join with the people of Guam in sending best wishes and a heartfelt *Si Yu'os ma'ase*. May your jubilee celebration be blessed by the graces of Santa Marian Kamalen.

A TRIBUTE TO THE WESTERN
SPRINGS GARDEN CLUB ON ITS
70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to an outstanding organization in my district that is celebrating 70 years of dedication in beautifying its community—the Western Springs, IL, Garden Club.

The club founded in 1926 by a group of Western Springs residents dedicated to making the then young community a more livable place. It was chartered with the goals, according to its creed, "To encourage and foster a greater appreciation among our members and neighbors of trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables and stimulate an interest preserving wildflowers and birds."

On June 29, the Western Springs Garden, a charter member of both the Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc., and the Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc., will celebrate its seven decades of service at a special Pictorial Stamp Cancellation Ceremony by the Western Springs Post Office.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the Western Springs on its 70th anniversary, and I wish its members many more years of promoting and protecting the natural beauty of its community.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3666) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment by Mr. BROWN to strike funding for the American Museum of Natural History.

There is so much to like about this project, it is hard to know where to begin.

The funds will be used to renovate New York's Hayden Planetarium. Money for the project is coming from a wide range of sources including \$33 million from New York City and \$27 million from private donations. The Federal Government is only expected to contribute 10 percent of the funding or \$13 million.

When the project is completed, America will once again have the finest planetarium in the world. Think about your children and the 3 million people who visit the planetarium each year as I read to you a description of the finished product from the New York Times.

[The planetarium] centerpiece will be an enormous sphere that will evoke, symbolically speaking, an atom, a planet, a star and a galaxy. It will house several facilities, among them the most technologically advanced sky theater in the world and exhibits exploring the nature of the universe. A spiraling walkway will take visitors through time, from the Big Bang that formed the cosmos to the present day. It will also serve as an intellectual link, explaining how the earth evolved and the whys of oceans, continents, earthquakes, mountains and volcanoes.

For those who support NASA, let us remember that the future of our space program depends upon exciting the imaginations of the next generation about the cosmos. America ought to have the best planetarium in the world. After all, we are the leaders in space flight and in the exploration of the Universe.

We know that if these funds are cut they will end up in some other account—so the deficit reduction argument does not work. Let us do something in the NASA funding bill for our kids.

Oppose the Brown amendment.

COMMEMORATION FOR 25 YEARS
OF ELECTIVE GOVERNORSHIP IN
GUAM

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 1996

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in my home district of Guam, the right of the governed to elect a Governor from among their own ranks is relatively new. This year marks only the 25th anniversary of the extension of that right to the people of Guam. In commemorating this political milestone, we also pay tribute to the Honorable Carlos G. Camacho, the first native-born son of Guam to earn the trust and confidence of the people of Guam and bear the mantle of executive leadership of the territory. The man and the milestone are inextricably intertwined in the modern political history of Guam.

Since Guam's first gubernatorial election in November 1970 and the start of Governor Camacho's administration in January 1971, the people of Guam have proudly and successfully participated in the open election process in six subsequent gubernatorial elections and have celebrated the triumph of democracy in installing six native sons as Governor of Guam. Governor Camacho was followed into office by Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo in 1975. And he by Governor Paul Calvo in 1979. In 1982, Governor Bordallo became the first Governor to win a second term

in office. Governor Joseph F. Ada, who served as Lieutenant Governor under Paul M. Calvo, succeeded Governor Bordallo in 1987. He won again in 1991, becoming the first Governor to serve consecutive terms. Last year, Governor Carl T.C. Guiterrez became Guam's seventh elected chief executive.

Although our roster of chief executive is brief in comparison to those of the States, we exalt in the fact that we can add a name to it every 4 years. We, the people of Guam, can and will make those additions. This is the real significance of this silver anniversary. Mr. Speaker, the right of the people of Guam to elect their own Governors is relatively new, but it is highly cherished and enthusiastically exercised. I'm proud to say that our voter turnout rates exceed the national rates by several percentage points. In the 1994 general election, a gubernatorial election year, 85 percent of Guam's registered voters went to the polls.

Our enthusiasm for free elections reflects our continuing desire and commitment to press for political self-determination. Born in the 16th century, at the start of the Spanish colonization of Guam and the Marianas, the desire of the Chamorro people to regain control of their own destiny has been expressed in different ways and taken on different forms, but it has never abated. When armed conflict against the Spanish proved futile, the Chamorro people turned inward, resisting assimilation and steadfastly clinging to their own language, culture and traditions, while under the Spanish yoke.

The dawning of the American Era in Guam in 1898 brought with it the promise of the freedoms, rights, duties and responsibilities of American democracy, as well as the birth of the Chamorro quest for political justice, equality and self-governance under the American flag. Though couched differently at various times, this has been our unchanging theme for nearly a 100 years. As early as 1901, 32 Guam leaders called on the U.S. Federal Government to clarify the political status of the island and its inhabitants. Subsequent efforts were geared toward the acquisition of U.S. citizenship as the means to secure political rights and protection. The passage of the Organic Act of Guam in 1950 satisfied the Guamanian desire of citizenship and civilian governance, but our appetite for true democracy remained sharp and hearty. The signing of the Elective Governorship Act, Public Law 90-497, in 1968, was a major step forward. Although the consent of the governed had yet to be requested, the power of the governed to select a governor had been yielded. Two years later, the people of Guam were granted a nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

The struggle of the Chamorro people has been long and arduous, the triumph have been hard-won, but our cause is just and our faith in America remains steadfast. And our desire for greater self-government under the American flag is undaunted, even as we wrestle with the contentious issues surrounding the Guam Commonwealth Act. The willingness of the Federal Government to engage with us in frank and honest discussions of these issues strengthens our belief that justice for all will indeed prevail.